

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 L-03 COME-00 STR-07
IO-14 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HEW-06
CTME-00 AID-05 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00
ICA-20 PA-02 OMB-01 CEA-01 /123 W
-----002911 091102Z /13

R 081732Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5870

UNCLAS PARIS 24874

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: FLORENCE AGREEMENT PROTOCOL ANNEX E: ARTICLES
FOR HANDICAPPED

REF: STATE 187912

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL POST CONTACTED MRS. GRAVISSE, CHEIF, BUREAU OF THE HANDICAPPED, MINISTERE DE LA SANTE, PARIS, TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT IN FRANCE. THE MINISTERE DE LA SANTE COORDINATES ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM DIFFERENT MINISTERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH THE HANDICAPPED.

MRS. GRAVISSE STATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GIVE ANY SPECIFIC REPLIES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS AS THE LAW CONCERNING THE HANDICAPPED(LOI 75-534 DATED JUNE 30, 1975) HAS ONLY BEEN PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED. MOREOVER, MRS. GRAVISSE STATED THAT AS OF NOW, CASES INVOLVING THE HANDICAPPED WERE TREATED CASE BY CASE BY THE MINISTRY. SHE ADDED THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT WERE DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE AS OF NOW DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION.

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2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED:
(A) HOW IS A HANDICAPPED PERSON DEFINED?
A HANDICAPPED PERSON IS A PERSON WHOSE PHYSICAL DISABILITY CAUSES PERMANENT INCAPACITY OF AT LEAST 80 0/0. THIS DISABILITY MUST BE RECOGNIZED BY A SPECIAL MEDICAL COMMISSION.

(B) HOW IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED PRODUCT FOR THE HANDICAPPED DEFINED? MRS. GRAVISSE STATED THAT NO SPECIFIC RULES EXIST IN THIS CASE. THE FRENCH SOCIAL SECURITY HAS APPROVED PRODUCTS WHICH MIGHT BE FOR HANDICAPPED AN/OR NON-HANDICAPPED.

(C) HOW IS EQUIVALENT DEFINED?
AN EXACT EQUIVALENCE VERY RARELY EXISTS FOR ANY HANDICAPPED PRODUCT. THEREFORE IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE EQUIVALENCY DETERMINATION.

(D) INSTITUTION OR OTHER ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH EDUCATION OR ASSISTANCE TO SUCH PERSONS?
ORGANIZATIONS WHICH IMPORT PRODUCTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, UNDER THE FLORENCE AGREEMENT MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE MINISTERE DE LA SANTE TO OBTAIN FULL REFUND OF EXPENSES.

(E) DOES HOST COUNTRY HAVE DEFINITION OF ARTICLES FOR THE HANDICAPPED? NO SUCH LIST EXISTS AS OF NOW, AND DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF PRODUCTS INVOLVED NO COVERAGE IS PLANNED. ONCE MORE THIS IS A CASE BY CASE DECISION MADE BY DIFFERENT MEDICAL COMMISSIONS WHEN THE PRODUCTED IS NEEDED.

(F) HOW DO HANDICAPPED PERSONS GENERALLY OBTAIN
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REQUESTED ARTICLES? ARTICLES FOR THE HANDICAPPED PERSONS ARE GENERALLY OBTAINED THROUGH THE FRENCH SOCIAL SECURITY. ARTICLES MAY BE FULLY OR PARTIALLY REIMBURSABLE DEPENDING ON THE DECISION MADE BY THE MEDICAL COMMISSION AND OF THE FINANCIAL BACKGROUND OF THE PERSON FOR WHOM THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN APPROVED,'
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS24874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780325-1008
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780887/aaaacvet.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 741f0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 187912
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1804640
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLORENCE AGREEMENT PROTOCOL ANNEX E: ARTICLES FOR HANDICAPPED
TAGS: ETRD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/741f0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014